



**MINUTES – MEC RETREAT  
8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M., AUGUST 8, 2009  
PIMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE WEST CAMPUS  
2202 W. ANKLAM RD., TUCSON, ARIZONA**

**THEME: MEC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Louis Albert, Bill Ardern, , Rhonda Ball, Malena Barajas, Dr. Kent Barrabee, Betty Elasowich, Richard Elias, George Favela, Nicole Haan, Bill Holmes, Maria Hooker, Rebecca Kopec, Raul Nido, Pere Jude Radecic, Jo Riester, Sr. Rosa Maria Ruiz, Lisa Silveiro, Laura Shaw, Jay St. John, Chris Walden-Jones, Dr. June Webb-Vignery.

NON-COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Richard Miranda, Karla Garcia, Fran Embrey Senechal, Edward Nossem, Jaymie Jacobs (for Dr. Linda Arzoumanian), Matt Kopec, Jo Ann Sayre, Dr. Robert Breault.

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER / BUSINESS MEETING –DR. LOUIS ALBERT**

The Retreat was called to order by Dr. Louis Albert at 8:00a.m.

**1.1 Introductions – Dr. Louis Albert**

Retreat participants introduced themselves.

**1.2 Financial Report – Bill Ardern**

Assets:

Current assets:	140,660.96
Fixed assets:	<u>2,082.84</u>
Total Assets:	142,743.80

Liabilities & Equity:

Current Liabilities:	15,027.03
Total Equity:	<u>127,716.77</u>
Total L & E:	142,743.80

Motion to approve the Financial Report: George Favela

Second: Dr. Jay St. John

The motion carried 20 to 0.

1.2.1 Approval of May 20, 2009 Meeting Minutes – Dr. Louis Albert

Motion to approve the May 20, 2009 Meeting Minutes:

George Favela

Second: Dr. Jay St. John

The motion carried 20 to 0.

1.3 Appointments – Dr. Louis Albert (for Pat Wiedhopf)

The Pima County Appointees are Richard Elias (Board of Supervisors), George Favela (Parent), Abbie Stone (Health Care Community), Mari Helen High (Religious Community), and Magdalena Barajas (Social Service Agencies Serving Children/Youth).

Motion to Approve: Rhonda Ball

Second: Betty Elasowich

The motion carried 20-0.

Dr. June Webb-Vignery also informed the attendees that the MEC has moved its office to 930 E. Broadway Blvd. A “Metropolitan Education Commission” sign with the MEC logo has been affixed to the front façade of the building, which will greatly aid our visibility from Broadway Blvd. and access to the Regional College Access Center. There is also ample parking. Commissioners were invited to come and see our new facility.

2.0 WELCOMING REMARKS – DR. LOUIS ALBERT

Dr. Albert conveyed regrets from PCC Chancellor Dr. Roy Flores, who was scheduled to deliver welcoming remarks but could not attend. Dr. Flores passed on reflections on the state of the national economy in general and its indicators, the recession, unemployment, and its effect on state funding of public education (we are probably many years away from returning to past education funding levels), state budget imbalance, the current state of Pima Community College and community colleges in general, and funding sources. The current state of affairs has forced PCC to do business a little differently than before.

There are 4 sources of funding for PCC, but only 3 regular sources (grants being the fourth)... the State, the amount of which is already running at a little under 9%, with further cuts predictably to come – we may not be getting anything of significance from the State of Arizona; property tax levies – property values and growth are down, so this is not a significant source of income.

If we continued to keep up with past expenditure patterns, we would have to take tuition up through the roof, and our board, and all of us who work here, are committed to keeping this college affordable and accessible, and so voted to put a \$2 increase instead of a \$5 or \$10 increase...so we will have to work smart. In the face of a peculiar phenomenon regarding community colleges – the worse the economy is, the worse the employment picture is, the more our enrollment increases. We’re looking at double-digit enrollment increases this fall. This campus alone will top out at over 13,000 students this fall, and every campus is showing 14-15% increases. We do not want to miss a beat in

serving students and our community, but to do it with the resources we have at hand we will have to be smaller, more nimble, and smarter in the way we maintain our commitments to students and to the community. And so we have been making some changes in order to adapt to these conditions. Those changes are accompanied by a deep commitment by our Board and Dr. Flores to avoid layoffs and furloughs.

Attrition has already occurred; we have been downsizing senior administrators and non-critical staff. We are not downsizing faculty or public safety, police officers, and whatever it takes to remain good stewards of the public trust and resources. We have reorganized in a way that is working. We have a new public health center with patient care simulators, and are moving rapidly to offer alternative energy training programs, and are expanding our online instructional programs, which are among the best in the country. We have also restructured our Student Services to provide consistent and high-quality assistance to students, including 20 Student Services station kiosks. Our mission remains unchanged – to continue our commitment to developing this community through learning.

This retreat will have 3 breakout sessions – MEC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Regional College Access Center (RCAC), and Youth Advisory Council/Tucson Teen Congress (YAC/TTC). This year marks the MEC's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We should take advantage of this anniversary both to let the public know what we do and also to position ourselves for the next 20 years. As always, we also need to talk about what the YAC/TTC have to say both to us and to the Mayor & Council and the Pima County Board of Supervisors. (Supervisor Chair) Richard Elias will be with us later to hear your breakout session reports and provide input. (JW-V): Mayor Walkup sends his regrets that he could not attend today.

### 3.0 COLLABORATIONS -GEORGE FAVELA, MEC VICE-CHAIR & ISSUES COMMITTEE CHAIR

#### KEY TO EMPLOYMENT FOR THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY SYMPOSIUM – Dr. June Webb-Vignery

We have sponsored The Key to Employment Symposium for the past 12 years, in partnership with the Pima & Santa Cruz Tech Prep Consortium. The purpose of the event is to inform students and teachers about high tech careers in Tucson, Pima County, and across the state. Once again the Tucson Airport Authority has offered their space, staff support, electricity, and their tarmac free of charge. Commissioners are urged to attend the event. The event will take place on Thursday, January 28, 2009. 1000 students and 100 teachers are expected to attend. The event features hands-on exhibits and presentations from industry representatives as well as representatives from UA and PCC. Commissioners are also invited to participate in the K to E steering committee meetings to provide input. (Dr. Albert): The Key to Employment is one of the things that the MEC is supposed to do, aside from our primary role of making policy recommendations to Mayor & Council and the County Board of Supervisors, which collectively we can make happen that we can't make happen individually. These kinds of activities, along with the RCAC, help us improve the impact of education in our community.

#### 2010 CENSUS – Malena Barajas

The 2010 U.S Census is mandated by a provision in the U.S. Constitution for proportional representation in the United States Senate and House of Representatives. Therefore, it is critical that the citizens of Pima County fill out the census form. The census also determines state funding allocations. There are 10 questions in the census form, making the form much more streamlined than in the past, and facilitating more responses and accuracy. The census questionnaire will be mailed out in mid-March 2010, and April 1<sup>st</sup> is the actual census date. As a partner in the 2010 Census, the MEC received a small grant that has paid for 30,000 flyers containing information about the Regional College Access Center, as well as the Census, to be distributed to the school districts in Pima County. The detailed Power Point presentation on the 2010 Census by Malena Barajas will be emailed to MEC Commissioners.

#### 4.0 PRESENTATION – PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVE-RICHARD MIRANDA, TUCSON DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

Mr. Miranda thanked the MEC for service to the community and hard work. He related that his wife was a teacher for 30 years, and that she gets thanks on an almost daily basis from former students. The MEC's advocacy of education is important for the community. Mr. Miranda was with the Tucson Police Department for 34 years, and Tucson Chief of Police for the last 10 years, and is now Deputy City Manager since last July. Since then he has gained an education in city government from the other side, in terms of looking at the checkbook and in terms of the budget. As Deputy City Manager he is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the city, including public safety, in charge of the Fire Department and Police Department.

Over the last couple of months you have been hearing about a new initiative that has been advocated by the Tucson Realtors Association and a number of other business people who have worked with both the Fire and Police Departments that would file an ordinance that would mandate staffing requirements for both departments. The police department's mandate would be that they would have to have an officer to citizen ratio of 2.4 police officers per 1000; and for the fire department to have a response time of 4 minutes for every fire call. This means that we would have to hire more people, build more buildings, and provide the support needed to meet the requirements of the initiative. The petition that was presented to the City Clerk had almost 20,000 signatures gathered within 72 days, indicating that the petition has great momentum, which was cause to provide some analysis for the community.

We worked with unions and advocacy groups to insure that the debate was not about whose numbers were right or wrong, but rather about the initiative itself. The 2.4 number per 1,000 citizens average of police officers was developed by Mr. Miranda. The cost for an additional 350 police officers over the next 5 years is estimated at \$7.4 million; for 70 additional firefighters, \$3 million. There are collateral costs – more arrests, courts, jail time (at \$168 per day), capital costs, etc. The MEC's work in terms of helping keep kids

in school and out of jail is important. A five-year estimate of costs is \$157 million, plus \$50 million in recurring costs.

There are three paying strategies for this initiative – a sales tax, which is not a good foundation to provide resources; a property tax raise, which would have to be voted on next November, or budget cuts - cut positions, funding to agencies that are not involved in core services, to get down to that figure of having to put \$10 million into the core budget, on top of the other costs associated with the economic downturn.

The Public Safety Initiative (PSI) is designed to provide more public safety to the community, and the advocacy behind that is that a safer community is going to bring in more economic development for Tucson. The other side of that is the cost, either through raising property taxes or cutting the budget.

(Mr. Miranda took questions from MEC Commissioners)

## 5.0 REGIONAL COLLEGE ACCESS CENTER (RCAC) – KARLA GARCIA

Dr. Albert emphasized the role of the MEC as being more than just an advisory one to the Mayor & Council and Board of Supervisors; but also one of advocacy in the community, and that the RCAC is becoming an important and integral part of our mission. As such, it is very important for the MEC Commissioners to disseminate information and support the Regional College Access Center. We must also continue to advocate for a better counselor-to-student ratio in our schools. It was pointed out that in budget discussions counselors are often absent from the equation, and we need to raise awareness of this issue. Karla commented that the data collected by the RCAC is partially for that purpose.

Karla Garcia's presentation and data provided in this presentation are available from the MEC office.

## 6.0 BREAK

## 7.0 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Three breakout sessions were organized for the Retreat: MEC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration; RCAC , and YAC/TTC.

## 8.0 SMALL GROUP REPORTS

Following are the flipchart notes and comments from each group:

### MEC 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon (CAA) – Emphasis:  
Youth roles in community

History of the CAA

SPONSORED ADS - “Before & After” Youth –

Jessica Cox, Sami Hamed, Bill & Melinda Gates Scholars, etc.

Former Commissioners

YAC/TTC Lifetime Achievement Award?

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary theme – Desert Diamond – Nogales Highway-

Less expensive venue and meals; FREE PARKING

Projection equipment, etc.

Emphasize MEC’s Service to Community / Former Commissioners

YAC/TTC Reunion Event? Sponsors?

#### Message:

Emphasize throughout the year at MEC meetings, etc. – FUNDING MESSAGE

Successful entity, service to community, etc.

COT, BOS Resolutions establishing MEC –

We have excellent dollar-per-value as a publicly-funded entity; we need community support.

- Develop a “catch-phrase” for all literature, correspondence, etc.

#### Separate Events / Recognitions

Former Commissioners at meetings to address “Reflections of the Past” – issues addressed in previous years – compile for print/media dissemination

Media articles made relevant to the present

MEC Past Issues Addressed & Successes, and Dates:

- Goal One: Graduate!/Meta Numero Uno: Graduar! Initiative
- School Infrastructure
- Mexican- American Studies
- Dropout Prevention
- Youth groups
- Tohono O’odham Nation & Pascua Yaqui Tribe

#### RCAC – MOVING FORWARD

##### Funding & Staffing

2 interns – U of A                      \$0

1 Americorps VISTA                      6,000

JTED intern – direct supervision from JTED

Federal Work/Study Ana Reese – 206-4550

Payroll deduction donations – United Way

\$20 campaign to coordinate with MEC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Creative ways of individual donations – MB

- Visible display of donors
- Make donations concrete - \$5,000 = number of laptops
- Recognize donors on website
- Laptop loaners
- Crystal Apple fundraiser

### Visibility

Goal for 2009-2010: Get people to USE the RCAC website, not just getting information out /

Incentives

More linkages – United Way, etc.

College event at RCAC

Youth volunteers

Flyers – YAC/TTC

Class presentations

Links on websites

Address school board & superintendent symposium

Social networking sites

e-mail blasts

Public presentations

ECAP's teachers @ SHS

Charter school luncheon

PCC recruiters presentation – Rick Gary – 206-4500

Tables in the mall

Temporary labs

JTED laptops

Identify target

2010 Census

Library – Nancy Ledeboer

Youth and adult programming

Workshops - Bank of 20-25 computers

Workshops @ RCAC

\$5 bus pass incentive

Getting people to use website

Strengthen relationships?

Create new relationships?

### YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL/TUCSON TEEN CONGRESS (YAC/TTC)

Grant from State Farm (pending / under consideration)

Use YAC/TTC to disseminate information on MEC & RCAC

Crystal Apple Counselor Award – Keep Permanent

RCAC & RCAC website help make school counselors more effective

TRANSITION FAIR – state funds have been eliminated; Jaymie Jacobs (Pima Co. Superintendent of Schools office) is in contact with the Governors Council on Disabilities regarding support – we need to find a way to continue program.  
Continue to use the America's Promise Dropout Summit data  
Interface with other groups & activities

#### 9.0 RESPONSE – RICHARD ELIAS, CHAIR, PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The RCAC has taken some hits in funding, we got the AZ Department of Commerce grant, but this is temporary. We need a sustainability plan, because the RCAC is becoming more valuable every day as people are finding out about it, and we can't fail in this – students will be impacted. We need to do our homework and find out what's happening with our funding agencies so that we can try and stay ahead of the curve, and come up with alternative funding plans.

It is a great idea to focus on the MEC's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and to honor those folks who are still around town and the Task Force that started the MEC, it is an impressive list, and also to highlight our successes. The Goal One: Graduate! Initiative has been the most successful; that has been a program which has brought a lot of rewards to young people and had great community support, maybe we can pick up some focus from that and highlight the future – the RCAC. Honoring Congressman Grijalva is also a great idea. We need to do some homework on getting some federal funding for the RCAC.

The YAC/TTC has not been as upfront and center for us sometimes; when our youth speak they speak in volumes, not sentences – we need to let them speak and show what they have to offer to our community, and we should include this in the Anniversary Lunch – their value and accomplishments. We need to enlarge recruitment efforts for the group.

We should move forward, but we shouldn't branch out too far, but rather solidify the present, and brazenly highlight the MEC's accomplishments. We should also go to former MEC and YAC/TTC members for support. As an example, Pima Community College has graduated over 700,000 graduates since the college's inception – the MEC also has large alumnus, and we should bring them back in. If we look at our past numbers, we have probably had well over 1,000 people who have put in a lot of hard work on the MEC over the years. I think that there's nothing wrong with going back to those folks, working them and seeing what they have to offer as we stand today.

I also want to thank the staff of the MEC, particularly June, for having the courage to regularly address both the Board (of Supervisors) and the City Council on policy issues that are not the easy ones. When we have a lot going on and have people who are fairly angry and frustrated, we can count on sound logic in terms of education policy coming from our friends at the MEC and June in particular. I would be very remiss if I did not point that out; and we should think about how those policy issues affect all of us, and June is always there and always on the right side of things, and we should all be very proud of that. Thanks also to Sister Rosa Maria Ruiz for her frank participation on and service to on the Commission, and for bringing the parochial school perspective, which is very important.

(JW-V): Can you tell us the impact of the proposed Public safety Initiative on the County?



RE: It is very intimidating when you think about the impact on the County...our total budget of \$1.5 billion; 55% of the General Fund is spent on public safety – running 3 court systems (juvenile, justice, and Superior), 3 different jails, County Attorney and Public Defenders offices – huge costs associated with all of those. The potential for gumming up the works by adding more arrests, generating more paperwork from our police officers in our biggest jurisdiction, is going to cost us a huge amount of money, which in effect is another unfunded mandate – all of this while the crime rate is going down. While we have done a good job at finding alternatives to incarceration for our juveniles – we’ve cut expenses at our juvenile court facility, our detention center there, by about 70%. Taking a look at creative alternatives...We are trying to address the issues of disproportional minority contact, the culture of adult & children probation. The County is deeply involved in public safety, and if we start upsetting the public safety “apple cart” in a time of difficult financial situations, we will find ourselves in serious trouble very quickly. This at a time when the State is stepping back on jail costs and funding prisoner health care.

The people who put the initiative together have good intentions, but unfunded mandates and putting forth ideas that will handcuff local officials from making wise decisions about prevention, especially among young people, from getting into trouble, is a problem. Prevention is the more cost effective and intelligent way to protect the community. It will affect all of our work in a dramatic way.

Dr. Albert: Is it possible to not implement all of the initiative’s programs?

RE: There is a cause-and-effect relationship between prevention programs we have out on the streets and kids getting arrested and adjudicated. Much more importantly, keeping kids on the right track, is more important – that we can keep kids that are doing good doing well. We need to be very careful in our decisions. Protection of our responders is paramount, but prevention is the key.

#### 10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn: Dr. Jay St. John

Second: George Favela

The motion carried 20 to 0.